



Gulf Region

Notice to Fish Harvesters

2021 BLUEFIN TUNA FISHING GULF NOVA SCOTIA

Antigonish, (NS) – July 16, 2021

Fisheries and Oceans Canada wishes to advise Gulf Nova Scotia (GNS) tuna licence holders that the tuna fishing season will open on July 19, 2021 at 6:00 a.m. (ADT). The fishery will remain open until the quota is harvested or until December 31, 2021, whichever comes first.

Commercial Fishery

2021 Management

- There will be 216 tags available to the GNS fleet. Tags will be allocated using the revolving tag list that has been used for the past several years. The revolving tag list will be resumed if additional tag allocations are available upon review of landings as the season progresses.
- Tag transfers are permitted during the 2021 season. Licence holders may receive or transfer a maximum of four tags during the season. Until September 30, 2021, a tuna licence holder can only do one of the following, not both:
Transfer tag(s) to another licence holder or Receive tag(s) in a transfer.

Starting on October 1, 2021, licence holders are eligible to complete both transactions.

- There will be no reallocation of tags. The tags and conditions of licence will be valid for the entire 2021 season unless the quota is landed and the season is closed.
- In 2021, tags will be distributed via Canada Post (Express Post -2 day delivery)
- Tag(s) fee will be available for payment through fishers' National Online Licensing System (NOLS) account.
- Licensing will complete mail out of tag(s) with Canada Post on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

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- Dart tags are available from Gulf Nova Scotia Tuna Association executives. Dart tags shall be recorded in the Record of Tags along with DFO issued tags prior to any fishing activity.
- The catch limitation is two fish per calendar day per licence.
- All other management measures are similar to 2020, including the use of Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) (cameras) in both the commercial and the charter fisheries.

2021 Mexican Quota

Only Gulf Nova Scotia Tuna Association members will be permitted in the draw for Mexican quota tags. Please contact association representatives for more details.

Indigenous Fishery

- The fishery will open July 19, 2021 and further details are outlined in the 2021 Conservation Harvesting Plan.

Charter Fisheries

- The GNS charter fishery seasons will be open from July 19, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

Catch & Release Charter Fishery

- The Catch & Release management measures remain unchanged from the 2020 season and are reflective of the National Guidelines for the Bluefin Tuna Catch and Release Fishery.

Catch & Retain Charter Fishery

- Those licence holders eligible and licenced to charter clients in the Bluefin tuna fishery will be permitted to catch and retain tuna using their initial commercial tag (s) in the fishery. Any tags that are transferred between licences holders are not authorized to be used in the Catch & Retain fishery. There will be 100% EMS coverage and fishers are required to contact their local Conservation & Protection office at least 72 hours prior to departure to ensure installation of a camera.

NEW in 2021

Crew Registry: The inshore regulations require inshore commercial licence holders, and their approved Substitute Operators, to keep records of all the crew members working aboard the vessel on every fishing trip. These records must be maintained by the licence holder for a period of five (5) years. More information can be found at: <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fisheries-peches/commercial-commerciale/atl-arc/inshore-regulations-reglement-peche-cotiere-eng.html>

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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